



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**September 5, 2013**

**Granite Reef Senior Center  
1700 N. Granite Reef Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** James Heitel, Chairman  
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman  
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner  
Robert Frost, Commissioner  
Con Englehorn, Commissioner  
Mike Milillo, Commissioner (arrived at 4:04 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Susan Wheeler, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Scott Hamilton  
Claire Miller  
Robbin Schweitzer  
Liz Hildenbrand  
Yvonne Massman

**GUESTS:** Mike Nolan  
Mike Mayer  
David Hay  
Rich Chamberlain  
Betty Miller  
John Holms

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Holms expressed concerns about water resources for wildlife living in the Preserve and discussed inconsistencies on the Game and Fish website regarding hunting in the Preserve.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Special Meeting minutes of May 30, 2013

**COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 30, 2013 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MILILLO, THE MOTION CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that the verbatim minutes of the agenda item discussing the jeep tours was forwarded to Council for their review.

5. **MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE** (Begins at 4:12; approximately 9 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Nolan reviewed activities planned for the upcoming season including steward patrols of the new trails in the north; training stewards as crew leaders for independent projects; Pathfinders' activities; the steward orientation program; the Browns Ranch opening; and the Field Institute's plant and animal inventory and development of an ecological resource plan. He announced that the Field Institute and Citizen Scientist program has been nominated for an AZ Forward award.

Commission members asked questions about the hike schedule, the night insect identification program, and the extent of MSC's involvement with new trail construction.

6. **LAND ACQUISITION** (Begins at 4:18; approximately 15 minutes into the meeting)

Mr. Ekblaw provided an update on the purchase of the 2,365 acres in the southern part of the Preserve and the Growing Smarter application. The auction is scheduled for November 19th at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Ekblaw presented a proposal to pursue sections 1 and 1a in the 2014 calendar year noting that Growing Smarter funds are expected to be available and could be used towards acquiring the strip of land along the Rawhide Wash (1a).

Discussion ensued regarding available funds and why acquiring the 1a portion of land in 2014 would be beneficial to the Preserve.

Mike Mayer asked that consideration be given to preserving the southern slope of the Preserve as a sanctuary for the wild animals that are living in that area and not introducing any new trails into that area.

**COMMISSIONER MILILLO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION TO PURSUE SECTIONS 1 AND 1A IN THE 2014 CALENDAR YEAR. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN, THE MOTION CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0).**

**7. STAFF REPORTS** (Begins at 4:39; approximately 34 minutes into the meeting)

- **Commercial Guided Tours - Trial Period Update**

Mr. Murphy recapped the discussion about commercial guided tours, noting that on June 18th Council directed staff to proceed with the option for a temporary trial period. Five jeep tour companies submitted proposals by the deadline, four of which were granted special use permits that are active from September 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014. At the end of this trial period, data from the analysis and monitoring program will be presented to the MSPC and Council for a decision on whether to amend the Ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding consideration that was given to the applicants in determining whether or not to grant the temporary use permits .

- **Hunting Flyer for 2013-2014 - Info/update regarding AZ Game & Fish Seasons**

Mr. Ekblaw presented the 2013/14 Arizona Game and Fish hunting flyer and discussed rule changes and the availability of online registration. He mentioned that Game and Fish is focused on the javelina population in Yuma County, which does not affect the Scottsdale Preserve.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments and recommendations.

Mike Mayer discussed the policies of Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner Kurt Davis and the City of Scottsdale's right to have controlled access for hunters in the Preserve.

John Holms commented about the City of Scottsdale's right to require detailed information from hunters and pointed out errors on the Arizona Game and Fish website.

Commissioners asked that a discussion be agendized regarding data collected by the Field Institute and whether or not the City of Scottsdale can specify access points for hunters.

- **October 19 Celebration**

Mr. Ekblaw said that a celebration of the acquisition of land in the North Area and the connection to the National Forest, new trails, and trailheads will be held on October 19th from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

- **Summer Updates**

Ms. Hildenbrand reviewed the summer activities including: the motorized tour special use permit process; work projects; safety audits; coordination with the MSC on development of an ecological resource plan; water resources data collection; preparation of an RFP for a cultural resources master plan; redesign of the dog information signs; and the opening of Brown's Ranch. She announced that Tom's Thumb trailhead was nominated for a Crescordia award and an award of merit. She noted that the Jane Rau Trail is scheduled to be completed before October 19th and Gateway Trailhead should be completed in mid-October.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

**8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** (Begins at 5:44; approximately 1 hour and 41 minutes into the meeting)

Vice-Chair Klein requested that a worm's-eye-view of the Lost Dog Wash Interpretive Trail be included as part of the upcoming scheduled presentation. Mr. Ekblaw said staff would strive to provide detailed graphics in addition to a November onsite open house.

Chair Heitel requested that a discussion be agendized about the possibility of obtaining voter approval to utilize a small percentage of Preserve funds for a public awareness and education program.

Commissioner Frost requested that a discussion be agendized about how best to address trails and animal population in the southern area mentioned by Mr. Mayer.

**9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 3, 2013**

Possible agenda items include:

- North Trailhead Study - Oct.-Nov.
- Future Land Cost Benefit Study Process - Nov.
- Lost Dog Wash Interpretive Trail - Oct.-Nov.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.